

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: Evening
Fifteen "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **Complete consideration of H.R.2643 - Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rep. Dicks-Appropriations):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. David Obey, or his designee, and will proceed in the following order:
 - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
- **Suspension Bill:** Today, the House will consider one bill on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.
 1. **H.R. 1830-To extend the authorities of the Andean Trade Preference Act (Rep. Rangel-Ways and Means):**
- **H. Res. 517–Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2829-the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2008 (Rep. Welch-Rules):** The open rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Peter Welch and consideration will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**

- Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
- **H.R. 2829-the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2008 (Rep. Serrano-Appropriations):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. David Obey, or his designee, and will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R.2643 - Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes

Bill Total

2007 Enacted: \$26.405 billion

President's Request: \$25.652 billion

Committee Mark: \$27.598 billion

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY: \$8.086 billion, \$361 million above 2007 and \$887 million above the President's request which would have cut the agency by over a half billion dollars.

EPA Enforcement: \$569 million, \$19 million above the President's request and 2007 to ensure that environmental laws and regulations are followed.

Climate Change

- **Sense of the Congress:** States that climate change is a reality and requires the country to act.
- **Core Scientific Research:** \$266 million, \$94 million above 2007 for basic research on climate change at the Department of Interior (USGS), the EPA, and the U.S. Forest Service.
- **Commission on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation:** \$50 million to establish a commission to review the scientific questions that need to be addressed to adapt to a warming planet and the specific science investments needed to address this reality. \$5 million will be used to support Commission activities, and the remaining \$45 will be distributed by the Commission to science agencies across the Federal Government to begin to implement the Commission's recommendations.
- **Regulations:** \$2 million to develop regulations to reduce green house gases following this spring's Supreme Court decision that the EPA has such authority under the Clean Air Act.

Water Infrastructure

- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund:** \$1.1 billion, \$437 million above the President's request that could help roughly 150 communities with drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects. This will begin to address cuts made to these programs since 2004.
- **Sewer and Water Grants (STAG):** \$140 million, not funded in 2007 or the President's request, for sewer and water grants to local communities, roughly half of the 2006 level, a first step in restoring these funds.
- **Rural Water Technical Assistance:** \$16 million, eliminated in the President's request, for technical assistance (such as training staff) for rural drinking water and wastewater treatment plants.

Protecting Bodies of Water

- **Cleaning Up Great Water Bodies:** \$174 million, \$50 million above 2007 and \$65 million over the President's request, to clean up America's waters including the Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes, Long Island Sound, Puget Sound and other important targeted watersheds.
- **National Estuary Program:** \$17 million, \$5 million above 2007 and \$10 million above the President's request, for grants to help local communities implement plans for attaining or maintaining water quality in an estuary.

Clean Air

- **Diesel Emission Reduction Program:** \$50 million, \$15 million above the President's request, for a new program to reduce pollution by retrofitting or replacing diesel engines in five categories: freight, construction, agriculture, ports and school busses.
- **Clean Air State Grants:** \$220 million, \$35 million above the President's request, for grants for state and regional efforts to implement the Clean Air Act, restoring funding to the 2006 level.
- **Energy Star:** \$52 million, \$8 million above the President's request and \$6 million above 2007, for the program that evaluates and promotes products for energy efficiency to help Americans make informed energy choices, restoring funding to the 2006 level. EPA estimates the program saved Americans \$12 billion in energy costs in 2005.

Hazardous and Toxic Cleanup

- **Superfund Sites:** \$600 million, \$26 million above 2007 and \$15 million above the President's request, to clean up the most toxic and hazardous waste sites. There is also \$170.6 million, \$9 million above the President's request and \$6 million above 2007 for Superfund enforcement.
- **Brownfields:** \$100 million, \$11 million above the President's request and 2007 for evaluation and cleanup of former industrial and commercial sites - turning them from problem properties to productive community use - and \$50 million in grants to states to administer Brownfield programs.
- **Leaking Underground Storage Tanks:** \$118 million, \$26 million above the President's request for grants to inspect and clean up pollution from underground storage tanks.

Environmental Justice: \$7 million, \$3 million above the President's request and \$2 million above 2007 to ensure that environmental decisions and EPA programs are not unfairly affecting minority populations.

EPA Science: \$788 million, \$34 million above 2007, not including the new commission on climate change science.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR: \$10.163 billion, \$257 million above 2007 and \$450 million above the President's request.

National Parks: \$2.512 billion, \$223 million above 2007 and \$148 million above the President's request, the first step in a 10-year program to upgrade our parks in time for the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016.

- **Operations:** \$2.047 billion, \$199 million above 2007, to reverse the major declines over the last decade in staffing, visitors' services and law enforcement capacity by allowing the parks to hire 3,000 new seasonal employees and 590 new year-round staff.
- **Centennial Challenge Grants:** \$50 million, to be matched with private funds, for the new Centennial Challenge matching grant program to finance "signature" enhancements in the parks.
- **Historic Preservation:** \$102 million, \$30 million above 2007 and \$20 million above the President's request, for programs including: Save America's Treasures (+\$12 million), Heritage Partnership Grants (+\$7 million), State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (+\$9 million), and the Preserve America program (+\$5 million).
- **Park Service Construction:** \$202 million, \$96 million below 2007, the President's request to give the parks time to complete old projects before beginning new ones.
- **"Stateside" Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** \$50 million, \$20 million above 2007 and zeroed out in the President's request, for grants to states for conservation and recreation including land acquisition and aid to local parks.

Bureau of Indian Affairs: \$2.347 billion, \$39 million above 2007 and \$118 million above the President's request.

- **Methamphetamine Prevention and Treatment:** \$35 million for programs at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services for combating methamphetamine in Indian country including: help for tribal law enforcement officers, detention centers, tribal courts, education programs, mental health, and substance abuse treatment and prevention.
- **Education:** \$699 million, \$39 million above the President's request and \$41 million above 2007, to improve education ranging from elementary and secondary schools to adult education. This includes fully restoring the Johnson-O'Malley assistance grants to support education programs for Indian tribes nationwide.

Indian Health Service: \$3.384 billion, \$204 million above 2007 and \$114 million above the President's request, to improve healthcare access and quality for Native Americans including restoring the Urban Health Program and adding \$25 million for the Indian Healthcare Improvement Fund.

Fighting Wildfires: \$2.8 billion, \$199 million above 2007 and \$111 million above the President's request to prevent and fight wildfires. Last year was the most expensive year on record for these programs.

- **Fires Suppression Operations:** \$163 million over 2007
- **Preparedness Funding:** \$113 million over the President's request to support staffing
- **Other Critical Needs:** \$50 million over the President's request to remove hazardous fuels, rehabilitate burned lands, and assist state and local firefighters.

Fish and Wildlife Service: \$1.417 billion, \$86 million above 2007 and \$130 million above the President's request.

- **National Wildlife Refuge System:** \$451 million, \$56 million above 2007 and the President's request, to restore staffing shortfalls and to improve visitors' services and wildlife management.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT): \$233 million, \$43 million above the President's request, for payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries.

Bureau of Land Management: \$1.046 billion, \$28 million over 2007 and \$26 million above the President's request for land stewardship activities such as recreation, trails, law enforcement, wildlife and fisheries, and wild horses. (not including previously mentioned funds for fire)

U.S. Geological Survey: \$1.033 billion, \$50 million above 2007 and \$58 million above the President's request for core research into areas such as earthquakes, geography, hydrology and stream gauges, and biological research. Also includes \$24 million for the Landsat Data Continuity Mission for a new satellite to continue detailed mapping of the earth.

- **Global Climate Change Research:** \$36 million, \$10 million above the President's request and 2007 for new research on global climate change including glacier and polar monitoring, impacts on rivers and ground water, and impacts on organisms.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE: \$2.593 billion, \$92 million above 2007 and \$355 million above the President's request, not including previously mentioned funds for fire.

State and Private Forestry: \$280 million, \$1 million above 2007 and \$78 million above the President's request to help manage over 500 million acres of non-federal forest lands.

National Forest System: \$1.506 billion, \$54 million above 2007 and \$162 million above the President's request to manage public lands in national forests and grasslands. Other increases above the request include \$30 million for road maintenance and \$11 million for trail maintenance.

- **Legacy Road Remediation:** \$65 million to repair damaged roads and decommission those that receive little use. Over the years, thousands of

miles of roads have been built in the forests, many of which have fallen into disrepair and disuse.

RELATED AGENCIES:

Smithsonian: \$652 million, \$18 million above 2007 and \$26 million below the President's request. This includes \$536 million for operational costs, a freeze at the 2007 level and \$35 million below the President's request, based on significant problems of governance and fiscal policies at the Institution.

National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities: \$160 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, \$35 million above 2007 and \$160 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, \$19 million over 2007, to help these programs to recover from deep cuts over the last decade.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT POLICY ITEM

Moratoria on Offshore Drilling: Maintains longstanding moratoria on energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf carried since the mid-1980s.

SIGNIFICANT CUTS

- \$193 million cut from construction accounts due to large unobligated balances. This includes \$96 million from the Park Service.
- Eliminates \$31 million for the landowner incentive and private stewardship programs in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because these programs duplicate work being done by state programs.
- \$39 million cut from EPA Mexican border program due to large unobligated balances.
- \$24 million cut from EPA Alaska village's set-aside, which is \$5 million below the request.
- \$24 million cut from Indian land consolidation.

H.R. 2829-the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2008

Bill Total

2007 Enacted: \$19.518 billion

President's request: \$21.677 billion

Committee Mark: \$21.434 billion

KEY INVESTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund: \$100 million, \$45.5 million above 2007 and \$71.4 million above the President's request, to support economic development and financial services in disadvantaged and rural communities through housing loans, micro-business loans, community development banks and credit unions, and other efforts aimed at economic development and the expansion of low-cost financial services. On average, each

dollar invested in the CDFI Fund leverages an additional \$27 in non-Federal funds.

Office of Financial Education: \$900,000, \$200,000 above 2007 and the President's request to help Americans make wiser choices in all areas of personal financial management, with a special emphasis on saving, credit management, home ownership and retirement planning.

Improving Taxpayer Services: \$3.6 billion, \$74.6 million above 2007 and \$51.9 million above the President's request and includes:

- **Pre-filing Taxpayer Service needs:** \$450.4 million, \$40.8 million above 2007 and \$42.6 million above the President's request for efforts to educate taxpayers about their rights and obligations before they file and to help taxpayers prepare tax returns at IRS walk-in sites around the country. The total number of taxpayers who received help at walk-in sites fell from 665,000 in 2003 to 406,000 in 2003 after years of inadequate funding.
- **National Taxpayer Advocate:** \$179.6 million, \$9.3 million above the President's request to help individuals solve ongoing tax problems with the IRS and uses information on these problems to provide suggestions on how to prevent them from being repeated.

Closing the Tax Gap: Works to close the estimated \$290 billion difference between the total taxes owed and the amount actually paid. The Budget Resolution recognized the importance of additional funding for tax enforcement in closing the tax gap, and provides the committee additional funding above the allocation if for these activities.

- **Enforcement:** \$7.2 billion, \$406 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, to catch tax cheats through audits, criminal investigations and delinquent collection efforts.
- **Business Systems Modernization:** \$282 million, \$69.4 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, to upgrade antiquated computer systems and to enhance overall efficiency at the IRS.
- **Compliance Research Initiative:** \$116.7 million, \$12.5 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, to study which taxpayer services most effectively increase overall tax compliance.

Strengthening National Security

- **Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence:** \$56.5 million, \$13 million above 2007 and \$250,000 above the President's request, including additional: (1) intelligence analysts tracking terrorist financing; (2) personnel for economic sanctions efforts against terrorist networks; (3) efforts to reduce the backlog of Freedom of Information Act requests at the Office of Foreign Assets Control; and (4) policy advisors to work with foreign governments to combat terrorist financing and other financial crimes.
- **Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN):** \$83.3 million, \$10.1 million above 2007 for more analysts to detect terrorist financing and other criminal behavior and to ensure banks report information key to tracking

terrorists as required in the Bank Secrecy Act with more personnel and an improved e-filing system. The program is \$2.5 million below the President's request as it does not fund the Cross Border Wire Transfer Initiative as Treasury has yet to decide if they will proceed with this initiative.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Supporting the War on Drugs

- **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas:** \$226 million, \$6 million above the President's request and \$1.3 million above 2007, to coordinate drug control efforts among local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies, providing agencies with coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical regions of the United States.
- **Drug-free Communities Grants:** \$90 million, \$10 million above 2007 level and at the President's request to support over 700 drug-free community coalitions across the United States, funding efforts to identify and respond to local substance abuse problems.
- **National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign:** \$93 million, \$6 million below 2007 and rejecting the President's request for a 31% increase after a Westat study showed no evidence that the program is effective.

THE JUDICIARY

Federal Courts: \$5.9 billion, \$254 million above 2007 and \$115 million below the revised request.

- **Defender Services:** \$830.5 million, \$54 million above 2007, to increase the payment rate for attorneys for indigent clients \$94 to \$100 per hour, because every American should have access to quality legal representation.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Assisting the District of Columbia's Students: \$76 million, \$3.4 million above 2007 and matching the President's request, to support the District of Columbia's students, including \$35 million for college tuition support and nearly \$41 million for school improvements.

Supporting the DC Criminal Justice System: \$531.9 million, \$60.9 million above 2007 and \$51.5 million above the President's request, to support the Courts of the District of Columbia, its operations, and other related services. This includes \$91 million for renovations for the District Courts, \$190 million for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, and \$32.7 million for the Public Defender Service

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Strengthening Regulatory Oversight and Consumer Protection: Regulatory agencies under this bill will be given additional resources to improve oversight and enforcement:

- **Consumer Product Safety Commission:** \$66.8 million, \$4.1 million above 2007 and \$3.6 million above the President's request, to protect the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries, and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$700 billion annually.
- **Federal Trade Commission:** \$247.5 million, \$36.2 million above 2007 and \$7.25 million above the President's request to enhance consumer protection activities, including investigations of sub-prime lending and identity theft, and to keep the marketplace free from anti-competitive business practices.
- **Securities and Exchange Commission:** \$908 million, \$15.9 million above 2007 and \$3.1 million above the President's request, to enhance securities law enforcement and to educate investors on how to invest wisely.
- **Federal Communications Commission:** \$313 million, \$21.7 million above 2007 and the same as the request, to improve oversight over the rapidly changing and expanding telecommunications environment, including help for consumers to prepare for the transition to digital television.

Small Business Administration: \$582 million, \$117 million above the President's request.

- **Small Business Loans:** \$80 million to subsidize the 7(a) loan guarantee program to help small businesses to start-up and grow. The Section 504 Certified Development Company guarantee program is capped at \$7.5 billion.
- **Small Business Development Center Grants:** \$100 million, \$12.9 million over the President's request, the highest funding level ever for this program.
- **Micro-loan program:** \$17 million, \$2 million above 2007 and not funded in the President's request, for very small loans to start-up, newly established, or growing small business concerns. Under this program, SBA makes funds available to nonprofit community based lenders (intermediaries) which, in turn, make loans to eligible borrowers in amounts up to a maximum of \$35,000.

Implementing the Help America Vote Act (HAVA): \$300 million, not funded in the 2007 or the President's request, for grants to help states comply with HAVA including upgrading voting machines and voter registration databases so that they are ready for the 2008 Presidential election.

General Services Administration (GSA): \$7.902 billion for the Federal Buildings Fund, so that Federal agencies will have the infrastructure needed to serve the public, including \$525 million for new construction and \$733 million for repairs and alterations of Federal buildings.

National Archives and Records Administration:

- **National Archives and Records Administration (NARA):** \$315 million, \$2.1 million above the President's request and \$35.7 million above 2007 for operating expenses to ensure evening and weekend hours for public research at the Archives every week instead of the current practice of only one week a month, as well as an increase in the number of archivists to help process public requests for access to historic documents. Funding is also included for additional space to house newly acquired historical documents.
- **National Historical Publications and Records Commission:** \$10 million, \$2.6 million above 2007 and eliminated in the President's request, for grants to states, local governments, universities, local historical societies, and others to preserve and archive historically important materials.

OTHER POLICY ITEMS

Banking-Real Estate Activities: Continues a long-standing provision prohibiting banks from engaging in real estate activities.

Public-Private Competitions: Modifies language allowing agencies to privatize certain government jobs if they can prove it is cost-effective to include workforce protections including: ensures Federal employees the right to appeal decisions to GAO; prevents advantage to companies that do not provide health and retirement benefits comparable to the federal government; and ensures that agencies will be able to make independent decisions, not dictated by OMB, on whether to conduct public-private competitions. (OMB Circular A-76).

Federal Employee Cost-of-Living Adjustment: A cost-of-living adjustment of 3.5 percent is included to continue the tradition of pay-parity between civilian and military employees.

District of Columbia Rights: Puts control of local government funds in the hands of the local government by lifting many restrictions on the District's ability to use local funding.

"Truth is tough. It will not break, like a bubble, at a touch; nay, you may kick it about all day like a football, and it will be round and full at evening."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes